

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6717

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1751

FROM MCELDFOWNEY/ MUSCAT

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS MOPS

SUBJECT: DHOFAR STATUS REPORT

1. RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH MILITARY REPS
ESPECIALLY MAJOR GENERAL TM CREASEY COMMANDER
SULTANS ARMED FORCES PRODUCE THE IMPRESSION THAT
WITHIN PRESENT CONSTRAINTS ON BOTH SIDES SITUATION
IN DHOFAR CLEARLY FAVORS SULTANS FORCES. REBEL
ACTIVITY IN EASTERN THIRD OF DHOFAR PROVINCE ALMOST
ENTIRELY AT A STANDSTILL PERMITTING WITHDRAWAL OF
ALL BUT ONE REGULAR BATTALION AND REPLACEMENT BY
FIRQA PATROLS. WITH EXCEPTION OF SHORT LIVED SHELLING
OF SALALAH AIRPORT ABOUT MIDDLE OF APRIL THE PLAIN
HAS BEEN FREE OF INCIDENTS FOR NEARLY TWO MONTHS. IN
THE WEST MAIN BRACE IS STILL BEING REGULARLY SUPPLIED
BY HELICOPTER AND AN OCCASIONAL SKYVAN WHICH UNLOADS
IN ABOUT ONE MINUTE. FIFTY KILOMETERS TO THE EAST
A STRING OF SEVEN OR EIGHT STATIC POSITIONS EXPECTED
TO BE MAINTAINED DURING THE MONSOON SEASON HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED.

2. THE ONLY NOTE OF DISQUIET TO BE DETECTED AS THE FIRST
MONSOON CLOUDS BEGIN TO ROLL IN IS THE POSSIBILITY OF
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ESCALATION BY THE OPPOSITION. OF PARTICULARLY
HIGH CONCERN AND PROBABILITY IS THE APPEARANCE OF
ROCKETS ESPECIALLY ANTI HELICOPTER HEAT SEEKING
WEAPONS. WHILE NONE OF THIS EQUIPMENT HAS YET BEEN
DETECTED THEIR APPEARANCE IS EXPECTED AT ALMOST
ANYTIME. MILITARY SOURCES HERE ADMIT THAT EXCEPT
FOR "HARDENING" SOME DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AND PREPARING
CONTINGENCY PLANS SUCH AIR SUPPLY OF SALALEH FROM
MIDWAY THERE IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO TO DEFEND AGAINST
SUCH WEAPONS IF THEY ARRIVE. THEY ARE HOPING TO
MINIMIZE THROUGH NOT ELIMINATE THE RISK BY INTERDICTION
EFFORTS.

3. IN AN ASIDE CREASEY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ABANDON
MAIN BRACE AS TOO COSTLY TO HOLD IF DECISION WERE
HIS NOT THE SULTAN'S. ALSO CREASEY INDICATED THAT
HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SAUDI DECLARATION OF PROTECTION
OF OMANI/ PDY BORDER TO FORESTALL INCURSIONS BY PDY
REGULAR FORCES OR AIRCRAFT.
STOLTZFUS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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